

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-18 remain in the application with claims 1 and 7 having been amended hereby and claim 6 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to correct the editorial error appearing therein as originally filed.

Accordingly, in view of the amendment made to the claim 1 hereby, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are clear and definite in their recitation of the present invention and meet all requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by *Pitsoulakis*.

In paragraph 9 of the instant official action, claims 6 and 7 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to include claim 6 in its entirety. Claim 6 has been canceled.

Accordingly, by reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 are patentably distinct over the cited reference.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over *Pitsoulakis* in view of *Nordling*.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1, which now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is also patentably distinct over the cited references.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over *Pitsououlakis* in view of *Ishidoshiro*.

Claim 8 depends from claim 1, which now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is also patentably distinct over the cited references.

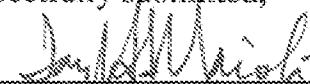
Notice is respectfully taken of the allowance of claims 9-18.

Therefore, by reason of the inclusion of allowable subject matter in independent claim 1 and the allowance of claims 9-18, it is respectfully submitted that all claims now in this application are in condition for allowance.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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